

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 U.S. Cattle Inventory July 1 U.S. Sheep Inventory Cattle on Feed Mink Production Red Meat Production Wheat & Barley Varieties Quarterly Milk Production Egg Production

U.S. July 1 Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2006, totaled 105.7 million head, 1 percent above the 104.5 million on July 1, 2005 and 2 percent above the 103.4 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.0 million, were up slightly from the 42.8 million on July 1, 2005 and 1 percent above the 42.4 million two years ago.

Beef cows, at 33.9 million, were up slightly from July 1, 2005 and up 1 percent from two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2005 and up 2 percent from two years ago. Other class estimates on July 1, 2006 and the changes from July 1, 2005, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, up 2 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.0 million, unchanged.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.8 million, up 3 percent.
 - Other heifers, 7.7 million, up 3 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.9 million, up 3 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 29.2 million, up 1 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.5 million, up 4 percent.

The 2006 calf crop is expected to be 37.9 million, up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.6

million, up 1 percent from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

U.S. July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2006 totaled 7.77 million head, down slightly from July 1, 2005, but 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.64 million head on July 1, 2006 was down slightly from July 1, 2005. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.14 million head, were also down slightly from last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.78 million ewes one year old and older, 185,000 rams one year old and older, and 670,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 3.06 million head was comprised of 1.80 million lambs under 65 pounds, 630,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 370,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 260,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 80,000 head.

The 2006 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.10 million head, down 1 percent from the 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2006 totaled 3.62 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 480,000 head are expected to be born during July through December 2006.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.1 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 18.9 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.5 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) for 15.1 percent.

U.S. July Cattle on Feed Up 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9

million head on July 1, 2006. The inventory was 5 percent above July 1, 2005 and 7 percent above July 1, 2004. This is the second highest July 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.09 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 65 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.71 million head, up 5 percent from 2005.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.95 million, 10 percent above 2005 and 18 percent above 2004. This is the second highest placements for the month of June since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.89 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 565,000, 600-699 pounds were 430,000, 700-799 pounds were 456,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 500,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.20 million, 6 percent above 2005 and up 6 percent from 2004. This is the second highest fed cattle marketings for the month of June since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during June, unchanged from 2005 but 10 percent below 2004.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2006, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 12.5 million, up 4 percent from the 12.0 million on July 1, 2005 and up 6 percent from July 1, 2004. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 87 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2006, unchanged from July 1, 2005.

U.S. Mink Pelt Production Up 3 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2005 totaled 2.63 million pelts, up 3 percent from 2004. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 778,000 pelts. Utah the second largest producing State, produced 600,000 pelts. (Continued on next page)

Mink Production (continued from page one)

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2005 is as follows: Black at 47.6 percent, Mahogany at 20.9 percent, Blue Iris at 11.3 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.3 percent, Sapphire at 4.0 percent, and White at 3.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6.1 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2005 crop year were valued at \$160 million, up 33 percent from \$120 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2005 crop year was \$60.90, up from \$47.10 in 2004.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2006 totaled 651,600, up 2 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2006 by color class are: Black at 49.5 percent, Mahogany at 17.8 percent, Blue Iris at 11.2 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.3 percent, Sapphire at 4.1 percent and White at 4.0 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.1 percent.

There were 277 mink farms producing pelts in 2005, down 6 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 70 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms and Minnesota with 24. There were 21 mink farms which also raised fox in 2005, up from 17 the previous year.

June 2006 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2006, down 9 percent from June 2005, but 3 percent higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, up 100 head from one year ago. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 1,138 pounds.

During June there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 245 pounds, was down 15 pounds from last year. June sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, up 100 head from June 2005. The average live weight in June 2006 was 118 pounds, a decrease of 39 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.12 billion pounds in June, up 4 percent from the 3.96 billion pounds produced in June 2005.

Beef production, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.16 million head,

up 8 percent from June 2005. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 1 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,700 head, down slightly from June 2005. The average live weight was 4 pounds below last year, at 365 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.66 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.34 million head, 2 percent below June 2005. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.6 million pounds, was down 5 percent from June 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,800 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, down 1 pound from June a year ago.

January to June 2006 commercial red meat production was 23.3 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

Wheat and Barley Varieties 2006

The top four winter wheat varieties account for 48.3 percent of the winter wheat acreage seeded for harvest in 2006. Rampart remains the most popular winter wheat variety with 411,900 acres seeded this year, down from last year's acreage of 534,200. CDC Falcon rises to second with 222,800 acres planted this year, accounting for 11.1 percent of the total winter wheat acreage in the state. Neeley drops to third this year with 180,500 acres seeded, accounting for 9.0 percent of the total winter wheat acreage in the state. Morgan is the fourth leading winter wheat variety in the state this year. A total of 151,800 acres were seeded accounting for 7.6 percent of the total acres seeded.

The top four **spring wheat** varieties account for 72.7 percent of the spring wheat acreage seeded for harvest in 2006. **Reeder** rises to first with 768,500 acres seeded this year, which is up from last year's acreage of 685,900. **McNeal** drops to second after eight consecutive years at the top. McNeal accounts for 21.7 percent of the acreage, or 628,000 acres, which is down 125,500 acres from 2005. **Choteau** rises to third with 502,600 acres planted this year, accounting for 17.3 percent of Montana's spring wheat

acres. **Conan** is the fourth leading variety for the third year in a row with 208,400 acres seeded, or 7.2 percent of the state's spring wheat acreage.

The top four durum wheat varieties (Mountrail, Kyle, Lebsock, Alzada) account for 83.6 percent of the total durum wheat acreage in the state for 2006. Mountrail remains the top durum wheat variety in the state for the third year in a row with 205,600 acres seeded, or 51.4 percent of the durum wheat acreage. This year's acreage is down from the 312,300 acres planted in 2005. Kyle is in second place again this year. There were 64,800 acres seeded in the state, accounting for 16.2 percent of the total acres. Lebsock rises to third with 38,200 acres seeded, or 9.6 percent of the state's durum wheat acreage. Alzada rises to fourth with 25,700 acres planted, accounting for 6.4 percent of Montana's durum wheat acreage.

Montana farmers seeded 800,000 acres of barley in 2006, down from 900,000 acres in 2005. Almost sixty percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association Inc. for use in Montana. Harrington remains the top variety planted in the state for the thirteenth year in a row. It was seeded on 243,900 acres or 30.5 percent of Montana's barley acreage. AC Metcalfe stays in second place this year, with 141,700 acres planted, which accounts for 17.7 percent of Montana's barley acreage. B Merit moves into third place for malting barley varieties planted with 36,900 acres, or 4.6 percent of Montana's barley acreage. Tradition moves into fourth place for malting barley varieties this year. It accounts for 26,600 of the barley acres seeded this year or 3.3 percent of the acreage.

Haybet remains the most popular forage barley for the seventh year in a row, with 118,100 acres seeded, which accounts for 14.8 percent of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2006. Westford is the second most popular forage barley for the fourth year in a row, with 15,500 acres or 1.9 percent of the state barley acres seeded in 2006.

Bowman moves into first place as the most popular **feed** variety, after being ranked second in 2005, with 16,800 acres or 2.1 percent of the barley acres seeded in 2006. **Valier** moves up to the second most popular feed variety in 2006, representing 1.8 percent of the total acreage or 14,200 acres seeded in Montana.

Winter Wheat

| | | Pero | cent of T | otal See | ded Acre | led Acreage | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Variety 1/ | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 2/ | 2006 | | | | | |
| Rampart | 13.8 | 15.9 | 19.6 | 25.7 | 28.6 | 24.8 | 20.6 | | | | | |
| CDC Falcon | | | | 0.4 | 1.8 | 3.9 | 11.1 | | | | | |
| Neeley | 19.2 | 22.6 | 19.9 | 16.8 | 15.4 | 12.6 | 9.0 | | | | | |
| Morgan | 8.3 | 10.0 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 7.6 | | | | | |
| Rocky | 6.9 | 8.9 | 11.1 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 7.6 | 7.3 | | | | | |
| Tiber | 11.3 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 9.5 | 9.3 | 10.0 | 6.2 | | | | | |
| Jagalene | | | | | | 1.5 | 6.0 | | | | | |
| Pryor | | | | | 0.6 | 1.7 | 3.4 | | | | | |
| Promontory | | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 3.1 | | | | | |
| Vanguard | 9.4 | 6.7 | 9.1 | 6.7 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 3.0 | | | | | |
| Big Sky | | | | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 2.6 | | | | | |
| Ledger | | | | | | | 2.5 | | | | | |
| Genou | | | | | | | 2.5 | | | | | |
| Redwin | 6.4 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 1.5 | | | | | |
| Judith | 2.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | | | | | |
| Winalta | 1.1 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 1.0 | | | | | |
| Prowers 99 | | | 0.7 | 0.6 | | | 0.8 | | | | | |
| Clearfield | | | | | | 0.8 | 0.7 | | | | | |
| Quantum 542 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.6 | | | | | |
| Tomahawk | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.6 | | | | | |
| Nuwest ** | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.5 | | | | | |
| Nufrontier | | | 0.3 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.5 | | | | | |
| Erhardt | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | | | | | |
| Other & Unknown | 17.2 | 13.1 | 11.0 | 13.8 | 12.6 | 10.8 | 7.3 | | | | | |
| All Varieties | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | | | | | |
| 1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 2/ Revised. **White wheat variety. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Spring Wheat

| | Percent of Total Seeded Acreage | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| Variety 1/ | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 2/ | 2006 |
| Reeder | 0.1 | 3.4 | 9.1 | 18.4 | 22.7 | 26.4 | 26.5 |
| McNeal | 48.8 | 49.2 | 38.8 | 35.9 | 31.7 | 29.0 | 21.7 |
| Choteau | | | | | | 1.5 | 17.3 |
| Conan | 1.0 | 3.1 | 5.0 | 3.7 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.2 |
| Ernest | 10.7 | 10.1 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 10.0 | 10.7 | 5.6 |
| Fortuna | 4.9 | 5.1 | 7.8 | 3.8 | 4.6 | 5.7 | 4.4 |
| Hank | | | 0.3 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Amidon | 10.9 | 7.8 | 6.2 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| Westbred Rambo | 5.3 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Westbred 926 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Parshall | | 0.5 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| Westbred 936 | 3.5 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.7 |
| Lew | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Len | 1.6 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| Outlook | | | | | | | 0.6 |
| Newana | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Grandin | 3.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Scholar | | 0.5 | 1.9 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| Alsen | | | | 0.1 | | | 0.3 |
| Westbred Express | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Other & Unknown | 5.5 | 9.2 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.0 |
| All Varieties | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 2/ Revised. | | | | | | | |

Durum Wheat

| | Percent of Total Seeded Acreage | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|--|
| Variety | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 1/ | 2006 | |
| Mountrail | .9 | 9.6 | 26.9 | 35.7 | 42.1 | 52.9 | 51.4 | |
| Kyle | 52.5 | 45.3 | 40.2 | 38.0 | 34.1 | 21.4 | 16.2 | |
| Lebsock | | 0.1 | 0.3 | 3.4 | 2.3 | 5.4 | 9.6 | |
| Alzada | | | | | | 1.3 | 6.4 | |
| Pierce | | | | | | 1.3 | 5.1 | |
| AC Avonlea | 1.4 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 4.3 | 7.2 | 5.3 | 2.2 | |
| Vic | 2.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.7 | |
| Dilse | | | | | | | 0.8 | |
| Maier | 0.1 | 0.7 | | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | |
| Monroe | 2.9 | 3.3 | 1.2 | 3.4 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 0.6 | |
| Ben | 7.8 | 8.0 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 0.2 | |
| Plaza | | 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.2 | |
| Other & Unknown | 31.8 | 27.4 | 20.2 | 9. | 8.5 | 7.5 | 5.0 | |
| All Varieties | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |
| 1/ Revised. | <u> </u> | | | | | | | |

Barley

| | Percent of Total Seeded Acreage | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Vaniatra | 2000 | 200 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | |
| Variety | 2000 | 1 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 1/ | 2000 | |
| Harrington* | 49.9 | 45.7 | 47.6 | 47.1 | 39.8 | 29.4 | 30.5 | |
| AC Metcalfe* | | | | 0.7 | 4.9 | 9.2 | 17.7 | |
| Haybet | 6.5 | 10.2 | 10.5 | 9.9 | 10.4 | 17.0 | 14.8 | |
| B Merit* | 1.6 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 4.6 | |
| Tradition * | | | | | | 1.5 | 3.3 | |
| Moravian 37 | 1.5 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.7 | |
| Conrad | | | | | | 1.4 | 2.6 | |
| Bowman | 2.8 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 2.1 | |
| Westford | 1.2 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 1.9 | |
| Valier | 0.1 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | |
| Hays | | | | | | 0.7 | 1.7 | |
| Conlon* | | | | | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1.7 | |
| Baronesse | 6.2 | 5.0 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 1.7 | |
| Legacy* | | | 0.6 | 1.0 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 1.6 | |
| Haxby | | | | | | 0.6 | 1.5 | |
| Hector | 3.7 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.4 | |
| Gallatin | 2.2 | 3.3 | 1.9 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 1.7 | 1.3 | |
| Westbred Xena | | | | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.4 | 0.9 | |
| Stark | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.9 | |
| Lewis | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | |
| Horsford | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.7 | |
| Prowashanupana | | | | | | | 0.7 | |
| Menuet | | | | | | | 0.4 | |
| Piroline | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 0.8 | | |
| B 1202* | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 3.9 | 4.9 | | |
| Other & Unknown | 13.0 | 12.4 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 5.5 | 2.7 | |
| | 100. | 100. | 100. | 100. | 100. | 100. | 100. | |
| All Varieties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

1/ Revised *Denotes variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association for planting in 2006.

U.S. June Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 14 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from June 2005. May revised production, at 14.7 billion pounds, was up 2.7 percent from May 2005. The May revision represented a decrease of 14 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,695 pounds for June, 5 pounds above June 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.27 million head, 128,000 head more than June 2005, and 9,000 head more than May 2006.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April - June quarter totaled 46.9 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from the April - June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.13 million head, 93,000

head more than the same period last year.

June Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during June 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.33 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 991 million were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2006 averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from last year. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,159 eggs, down slightly from June 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2006, totaled 341 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.82 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2006, averaged 72.7 eggs

per 100 layers, up slightly from July 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2006 totaled 37.7 million, up 8 percent from June 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 32.1 million on July 1, 2006, down 10 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 183,000 during June 2006, up 5 percent from June 2005.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2006 totaled 788 million, down 1 percent from June 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 650 million on July 1, 2006, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.64 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2006, up 7 percent from June 2005.

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